

My Dear Mary -

Friday Noon -

I received your letter ~~of~~ Monday
& on the same day! after tea, first dipped Pen in Ink
in your matters, & the Article is positively finished!
How far it may fit my procrastinated of 20-24
pages I know not; but I suppose it could neither be
attenuated nor abbreviated ~~but to~~ but to
disadvantage - It is perfect!! Talk of "Touching it up"
with your "Millanices" indeed! Did you ever happen
to try the effect of holding a Rushlight in the Sunbeam?
It looks very sublime, I assure you - But now to my
object in writing, which, as usual, is a kind & con-
fidential one - You talk of writing me soon, &
giving hints & information &c. (which you want not
send when I asked for them) but which I will now
spare you the trouble of preparing - for my work is
done, & (as I suppose often happens to your profes-
sional spinners of brains) my thoughts took quite
another turn from what I had intended, & I have
never once adverted to a previous Botanical Writer.

The Subject will be Botany, not N. Am. Botany
& I have really & truly endeavoured conscientiously
to do some good to the rising generation by my
remarks - For the rest, I can only hope that my
using your publications as a Vehicle for my own
more important teachings, will not injure their sale.

I am rather glad that my former design is (unintentionally) changed, as I suspect Hutton is doing something in the way of a running comment on N. Am. Botanists, & I would much rather leave the field to him - at least just now.

After dinner - which I am just beginning to think a luxury - I shall set about making fair copy - a wretched soul-buff job, in which as Dr. Johnson feelingly observes one has to "add the weariness of expunging to the labour of copying" - However, I hope my prurencies are not many, & you shall have the MS. when it is done. I hope before the close of next week - You never answer my query as to whether you rec'd your 3 nos. of Hook. Journ. Bot? nor whether I should send Luck's plants (from Benth) to you, thro' Hook? You used to be a punctual correspondent -

Why is a man in love like a lobster?

My 1st of Vol. of Dr. Syst. containing the Bibliotheca was burnt! I could not - had I desired it, have carried out my first view satisfactorily - for lack of books, or access to them - Kindest love to dear Jane - I hope she is mending - I put

Sullivan's Journ. Bot. into our N. Y. P. S. with my own hand, sometime in last Sept. or early in October! Are you right as to the number he supposed?

I shall send the MS. by Adams' Express unless otherwise instructed

W. A. P. J. Jul.

Engelmann writes me that I am to receive from you some seeds which he is sending you, & which he requests me to ship to Bremen with a parcel of Wislizenus' reports, which I have already received, & ^{which} are now only waiting ^{the arrival of} said seeds - Please "send-em-along" if you have got them - that I may get rid of my job - which the rascal & his h-y-Frenchman - friend Wislizenus ("Phaebus! w... a name") had no right to impose upon my goodness.

N.B. Pot-hooks rather unweary - but the copy is done & me authors! get cramped fingers with long writing!

Prof. A. Gray
Harvard Univ.
Cambridge
Massachusetts.

